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**METROPOLITAN
FIRE
SERVICE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

MEDIA RELEASE

SECURITY SHUTTERS - FIRE DANGER!

The tragic fire that claimed the life of a Paralowie man on Monday morning has prompted the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service to issue a warning about the dangers of increasing the security measures in your home.

If you increase the security on your house, you should increase fire warning systems and have a Home Fire Escape Plan which you practise at least twice a year.

“Don’t forget that any mechanical device which keeps people out of your house will keep you securely locked in if there’s a fire,” said District Officer Allan Foster, from the SA Metropolitan Fire Service. “You need to be able to escape quickly so put in place the safeguards you need today!”

District Officer Foster advised that security bars and grilles should all be fitted with quick release mechanisms on the inside of the windows and doors, and if you need a key to open a door it should always be in the door lock when you are at home. You should also be able to open roller shutters if there is a power loss.

If you have security bars or grilles, or roller shutters, then increase the number of smoke alarms in your home so that there is a smoke alarm on every level, in every bedroom, the living areas and the passage ways. Have the smoke alarms hard-wired to the 240v power supply and have them interconnected so that when one smoke alarm goes off every smoke alarm in the house sounds the alarm. Make sure that you maintain your smoke alarms, and test them every month.

Make a Home Fire Escape Plan with your family. Work out 2 exits from every room and make sure that everyone knows how to get out by crawling low under smoke. Decide on a meeting place outside the house where everyone gathers for a head count. Once you have a Home Fire Escape Plan in place then it’s important to practise it regularly so that everyone knows exactly what to do if there’s a fire.

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